

**Remarks/Arguments:**

**Claim Status**

Claims 1-7, 9-15, 20 and 22-24 are pending in the present case. The features of claim 8 have been included in amended claim 1. The features of claim 16 have been included in amended claims 9 and 20. Claims 8, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 25-29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. Claims 7 and 15 have been amended to properly depend from claims 1 and 9, respectively.

Examiner indicated that Claims 8 and 16 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants appreciate Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter.

**Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):**

Claims 1-6 and 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,149) in view of McAnally et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,742). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Kim et al. and McAnally et al. for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants have added the features of objected claims 8 and 16 to independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 2-7 and 10-15 are dependent upon amended claims 1 and 9, respectively, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 1-7 and 9-15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,149) in view of McAnally et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,742) and further in view of Mayer (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,556). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Kim et al., McAnally et al. and Mayer for at least the reasons set forth below.

As stated above, applicants have added the features of objected claims 8 and 16 to independent claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 7 and 15 are dependent upon amended

claims 1 and 9, respectively, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 7 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 20 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,149) in view of McAnally et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,742). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims and respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Kim et al. and McAnally et al. for at least the reasons set forth below.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to include the features of objected claim 16. Independent claim 20, as amended, recites limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by Kim et al. and/or McAnally et al., namely:

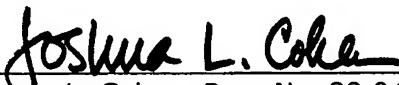
*"a rail clip coupled to said rail system configured for compression and expansion in at least one dimension thereof through actuation of a spring loaded mechanism included in said rail clip such that said rail clip is coupled to said rail system."*

The Office Action indicated that the features of claim 16 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, the addition of the features of claim 16 should place claim 20 in allowable form. Claims 22-24 are dependent upon amended claim 20, and therefore should also be allowed at least as dependent upon an allowable base claim. Reconsideration of claims 20 and 22-24 is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

In view of the amendments in the claims and the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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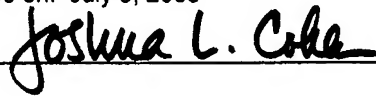
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